

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Laura Sherman, John Luginbuhl, Eric Santini, Tim Olmsted and Alternate Lori Holden

**ABSENT:** Anna Sanko and Alternate Laurie Fiore

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Rob Phillips, Town Planner and Reanna Goodreau, Recording Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairman Sherman called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Tax Abatement Application: Syn-Mar Products, Inc.—5 Nutmeg Drive

Commissioner Olmsted explained that the commission is looking for detailed information about the operation.

Ken Hill came forward on behalf of the application. Mr. Hill explained that Syn-Mar Products, Inc., which manufactures cultured marble, is currently located in Ellington on Route 83 in a 10,000 square foot building that they lease. The new building will be done in two phases; the first phase will be 15,000 square feet and the second phase will be 14,000 square feet. There are currently 16 employees and they are looking to add 5 additional in the next several years. He noted that the type of equipment they own include mixers, compressors, tables and dolly systems. Mr. Hill explained that there will be a small retail sales area. The reasoning for the expansion is to make the operation more efficient. With the better layout, they hope to bring in more business.

Commissioner Santini asked what the cost to construct the building was and if they would be purchasing new trucks. He was told that the purchase price was \$1.3 million including land and that they will purchase at least one truck.

The commission noted that this is a targeted business under the tax abatement program. They requested that he supply the cost of new equipment and the amount of taxes currently paid to the Town for the subcommittee.

**MOVED (LUGINBUHL), SECONDED (SANTINI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO FORWARD THE TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION FOR SYN-MAR PRODUCTS, INC. TO THE TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE.**

**THE COMMISSION WENT OUT OF AGENDA ORDER**

4. Business Survey— Review of Results

Commissioner Holden reviewed the memo she drafted with the commission and the First Selectman. It was the consensus of the commission for staff to forward the memo to the Board of Selectmen as drafted.

Commissioner Olmsted suggested having the Guilford EDC Chairman attend an Ellington EDC meeting to discuss their successes in Guilford.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION AGREED TO REQUEST THAT THE EDC CHAIRMAN FROM THE TOWN OF GUILFORD ATTEND THE NEXT ELLINGTON EDC MEETING TO DISCUSS THEIR SUCCESSES.**

**BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION REQUESTED THAT STAFF FORWARD THE MEMO REGARDING THE BUSINESS SURVEY TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.**

**THE COMMISSION RETURNED TO ORIGINAL AGENDA ORDER.**

2. CEDAS: Camera Friendly Communities—Update

Vice Chairman Sherman stated that Commissioner Sanko is resigning. She noted that she needs to meet with her in order to get any information she has regarding the Camera Friendly initiative.

**CONTINUED TO THE MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING.**

3. Medical Business Subcommittee—Update

Commissioner Olmsted stated that he has not had a chance to meet with local physicians to get their opinion on having a walk-in clinic in Ellington. He noted that with the age-restricted housing approved, the need for this type of facility increases.

**CONTINUED TO THE MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING.**

5. Tax Abatement Policies/Procedures—Update

Reanna Goodreau noted that she needs to meet with Rick Cleary, former Chairman, to coordinate where he left off with the tax abatement updates and ask about the tax abatement subcommittee.

**CONTINUED TO THE MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING.**

6. Review of the Economic Development Chapter of the Current Plan of Conservation & Development & Zoning Regulations

Reanna Goodreau explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) held a special meeting to discuss the updates. They determined that the entire PZC will work on the updates, but they would like a representative from each commission in attendance at the workshops. The PZC will also request each commission meet with the PZC to discuss their concerns and suggestions when their specific section is to be reviewed. Rob Phillips explained that the PZC will have workshops and public hearings and will be setting a schedule at a special meeting this month. Vice Chairman Sherman requested that the members be prepared to discuss the EDC section of the plan at the March meeting.

**CONTINUED TO THE MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Election of Officers

**TABLED TO THE MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING.**

2. Approval of the January 11, 2006 Special Meeting Minutes

**MOVED (LUGINBUHL), SECONDED (OLMSTED) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2006 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.**

3. Correspondence: **NONE**

Commissioner Luginbuhl explained that he spoke with the Public Works Director about signage for the Farmer's Market and noted that the Public Works Director does not take issue with signage for the market at the park. Reanna Goodreau noted that there are zoning regulations that need to be met. Commissioner Luginbuhl gave staff a sketch of the proposed signage in order for staff to evaluate if it met the regulations. Ms. Goodreau stated that she will coordinate with John Hoffman of the Farmer's Market.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (LUGINBUHL), SECONDED (SANTINI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:10 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Reanna Goodreau  
Recording Secretary